

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 10-11 are currently pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claim 10 has been amended, and new claims 34-37 have been added. No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 10-11 and 34-37 would be pending.

II. Claim Rejections Under U.S.C. § 103

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita et al. (US 5,726,709) in view of Sugimori et al. (US 5,289,269).

To facilitate prosecution, claim 10 has been amended to further recite that the single image sensing element is a single solid-state image sensing element.

Kinoshita and Sugimori do not appear to disclose or suggest a single “solid-state” image sensing element having first and second image sensing areas as well as the matrix as claimed. On the contrary, Kinoshita shows the use of a plurality of separate image sensing elements, rather than a single element having plural sensing areas as well as the matrix as claimed. See e.g., Kinoshita, Figs. 1 and 11. Sugimori does not appear to remedy the deficiencies in the Kinoshita teachings, and likewise appears to show the use of a plurality of image sensing elements, e.g., CCDs. Accordingly, claim 10 and its dependent claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

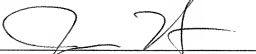
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4782.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4782.

Respectfully submitted,
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